

Appl. No. 10/017,894
Response Dated October 14, 2004
Reply to Office Communication dated September 20, 2004

AMENDMENTS

In The Specification:

In the first paragraph after the title on page 1, lines 2 through 4, please amend the paragraph as follows:

The present application claims ~~priority to the benefit of the filing date of U.S.~~
Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/272,548 filed on March 1, 2001 and
entitled "A Pre-Fastened Absorbent Article Having Improved Fit and Fastening
Features".

In the original Summary of the Invention section, please delete the original Summary beginning on page 4, line 24, and ending on page 9, line 36, and replace with the following rewritten Summary:

In response to the difficulties and problems discussed above, new
prefastened, pant-like disposable absorbent articles that have simplified and
improved primary fasteners for forming the prefastened absorbent articles have
been invented. As previously described, a common fastening feature for absorbent
articles is to provide a hook component and a corresponding loop component for
securing the back waist region to the front waist region of the absorbent article. The
present invention is directed in part to multiple property fasteners. The multiple
property fasteners of the invention provide multiple features such as reliable
engagement and skin friendliness (or reduced abrasiveness) in a single fastener.

The present invention is directed to a pant-like, prefastened, disposable
absorbent article. The article includes an absorbent, a front waist region, a back
waist region and a crotch region that extends between and connects the waist
regions. In addition the article includes a longitudinal direction, a lateral direction,
an exterior surface and an interior surface opposite the exterior surface. The article
also includes a pair of laterally opposed side edges and a pair of longitudinally
opposed waist edges. Further the absorbent article includes a multiple property
fastener. The multiple property fastener defines a fastener longitudinal direction, a
fastener lateral direction and a fastener area. The multiple property fastener further

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includes at least one engagement zone of a first mechanical fastening material and at least one non-abrasive zone of a second mechanical fastening material. Additionally, the multiple property fastener is oversized to provide stability between the front waist region and the back waist region and to maintain the pant-like, prefastened configuration.

In another aspect of the present invention, the article may include one engagement zone covering one half of the fastener area in the fastener longitudinal direction and one non-abrasive zone covering the other half of the fastener area in the fastener longitudinal direction.

In another aspect of the present invention, the first mechanical fastening material is made from a polypropylene copolymer. Alternatively the second mechanical fastening material is made from a polymer selected from elastomeric thermoplastic polymers and metallocene catalyzed polymers.

In another aspect of the present invention the multiple property fastener is engageable into the front waist region of the article. Alternatively the multiple property fastener is engageable into the back waist region of the article.

In yet another aspect of the present invention the multiple property fastener has a top edge that is generally aligned with one of the waist edges of the article.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention claimed. The accompanying drawings, that are incorporated in and constitute part of this specification, are included to illustrate and provide a further understanding of the articles and methods of the invention. Together with the description, the drawings serve to explain various aspects of the invention.